

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3       A surgical scissors includes two cutting blades  
4 operable via a handle. One of the blades is provided with  
5 a distally projecting needle-like tip which can easily  
6 pierce tissue. In use, the tip on the blade is gently  
7 pressed against a vessel, preferably at a shallow angle  
8 relative to the vessel, to define an entry hole. This  
9 shallow angle approach with the needle-like piercing tip  
10 reduces the opportunity for inadvertent puncture. The  
11 lower blade is then pushed further through the entry hole  
12 in alignment with the piercing tip such that the cutting  
13 blade portion of the lower blade also enters the vessel.  
14 The handle is then operated to cause the blades cut the  
15 vessel tissue therebetween to create the incision. The  
16 instrument of the invention facilitates making lengthwise  
17 incisions in vessels by eliminating offline cutting, and  
18 substantially reducing the likelihood of cutting the  
19 posterior vessel wall.